

COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN



April 26, 2009

We are now entering the last full week of the 2009 legislative session. The schedules are unpredictable and the pace is fast, but children continue to hang on in spite of more than \$1 billion in cuts to the state budget. Please stay tuned as we will be issuing our end of session wrap up late next week where we will talk in more detail about what this session meant for Colorado's 1.2 million children.

CCC in the News:

9 News - Smokers Prepare for Major Tax Hike

<http://www.9news.com/rss/article.aspx?storyid=112902>

The Denver Post - Reforms May Pay Off for Schools

http://www.denverpost.com/education/ci_12033412

The Wall Street Journal - More States Considering Tax Breaks to Woo Jobs

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123353481151637695.html>

Publications:

Link to our Teacher ID symposium held on February 27, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/cgqzrz>

Quality Child Care: An Investment in Families, An Investment in Colorado's Economy

<http://tinyurl.com/ddptbm>

Food for Thought, Health for Success: Pursuing Policy that Supports Student Wellness and Achievement

<http://tinyurl.com/db9r8d>

High School Reform in Colorado: A History of Efforts and Lessons for the Future

<http://tinyurl.com/cl7u56>

Upcoming Events:

Colorado Shops for Kids +10

Wine tasting reception to kick off Colorado Shops for Kids
at The Village Shops at the Landmark, Greenwood Village.

Join us Wednesday, April 29th
5:00 to 8:00 pm

We invite you for a special shopping evening where
the Landmark Merchants have graciously offered an
ADDITIONAL 10% OFF their Colorado Shops for Kids offers.
FOR ONLY ONE NIGHT!



Wine compliments of **VINO 100** paired with delicacies from *Jiro* *hapa*
100 great wines for \$25 or less SUSHI, GRILL & SAKÉ

**COLORADO
SHOPS
FOR
KIDS**



May 1 - May 14, 2009

You decide what's on sale!

Save **BIG** at Denver's premier stores
and restaurants while supporting Colorado kids.

More information at

www.coloradokids.org

Colorado Shops for Kids

A Special Evening with Even More Savings!

[Purchase your Colorado Shops for Kids book now!](http://tinyurl.com/cuplx9)
<http://tinyurl.com/cuplx9>

We're kicking off the 2009 Colorado Shops for Kids program in grand style and hope that you'll join us for an evening with food, wine, and of course, **GREAT SHOPPING with BIG DISCOUNTS!**

Wednesday, April 29th, 5:00-8:00p.m. at *The Village Shops at the Landmark in Greenwood Village.*

This night only, participating Colorado Shops for Kids merchants will be offering Colorado Shops for Kids purchasers an **ADDITIONAL 10% OFF their Colorado Shops for Kids offers.** This adds up to BIG additional Savings:

A-Line Boutique- 30% off one item, plus the ADDITIONAL 10% off

Ella Bleu-30% off one item, plus the ADDITIONAL 10% off

HW Home-20%/25% off one item, plus the ADDITIONAL 10% off

Moda-30% off one item, plus the ADDITIONAL 10% off

Vino 100 will have wine, and Jing and Hapa Sushi will provide snacks.

We hope to see you April 29th!

Getting to the Village Shops at the Landmark

FROM THE NORTH

1. From I-25 take Exit 199 Belleview Ave. to the west
2. Turn south (left) on S. Quebec St.
3. Turn east (left) on E. Progress Place
4. E. Progress Place will make an "S" into the shops at Landmark

FROM THE SOUTH

1. From I-25 take Exit 199 Belleview Ave. to the west
2. Turn south (left) on S. Quebec St.
3. At the light turn east (left) on E. Berry Ave.
4. Turn north (left) on Greenwood Plaza Blvd.
5. Turn left on Landmark Way

A Job Well Done:

Michelle Rhee, Chancellor of DC Public Schools, was the latest in a series of speakers sponsored by Democrats for Education Reform of Colorado. Rhee spoke about education reform in Washington DC - April 17, 2009

<http://www.ednewscolorado.org/page10403224.aspx>

The Colorado Children's Campaign is a lead partner in the All Kids Covered Initiative, a group of committed organizations working to ensure quality affordable health care coverage for all children in our state. The Initiative has launched its new website to offer information and updates on initiative and partner work. Check back often to get the latest news on child health work or to tell your story about how you or your child has been impacted by health insurance. Please visit us at: <http://allkidscoveredcolorado.org/>.

2009 Legislative Update:

(Note: Unless otherwise indicated, the CCC supports all of the following pieces of legislation. In some cases the CCC is the initiator of the legislation and is allocating resources to ensure passage and signing.)

Early Childhood:

Bill #: SB 09-033

Sponsors: Senator Sandoval, Representative Solano

Title: Concerning Expanding the List of Students Who Qualify to Receive a Free Lunch in Colorado to Include Children in Public School Early Childhood Education Programs Who Are Eligible to Receive a Reduced-Cost Lunch under the "National School Lunch Act."

Summary: Allows school districts to offer free lunch to children participating in school-based early childhood programs that are otherwise eligible for reduced-price lunch.

Date of Next Action: **The bill was signed by the Governor on March 25, 2009.**

Bill #: HB 09-1343

Sponsors: Representative Massey and Senator Williams

Title: Concerning the Creation of the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Oversight Commission.

Summary: Creates an early childhood and school readiness legislative commission to promote policy changes that improve the lives of Colorado's youngest children. The bill is a product of the 2009 Early Childhood Caucus, a group of approximately 20 legislators committed to early childhood issues at the capitol.

Date of Next Action: The bill was introduced in the House and assigned to Education. April 23, the House Education Committee passed the bill, amended. It will be heard on Tuesday for its Second Reading in the House.

Child Health:

Bill #: SB 09-131

Sponsors: Senator Romer, Representative Massey

Title: Concerning the Requirement That Students in Public Schools Engage in a Certain Amount of Physical Activity Each Week.

Summary: Encourages school districts to provide elementary school students with at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week. Physical activity may include, but is not limited to

recess and physical education classes.

Date of Next Action: April 20, the House consideration of the first Conference Committee was to adhere to the House version. The members of the Conference Committee are Senators Romer, Spence and Boyd, Representatives Massey, Merrifield and Riesberg.

Bill #: HB 09-1020

Sponsors: Representative Acree, Senator Spence

Title: Concerning Expedited Processes for Re-enrollment in Publicly Funded Medical Programs.

Summary: Requires the Department of Health Care Policy and Finance to create a process for phone and internet-based re-enrollment for Medicaid and CHP+.

Date of Next Action: On April 22, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services referred the bill, unamended, to Appropriations. It is scheduled for Senate Appropriations Tuesday, April 28, in SCR 356 at 7:30am.

Bill #: HB 09-1293

Sponsors: Representatives Riesberg and Ferrandino, Senators Keller and Boyd

Title: Concerning a Hospital Provider Fee, and, in Connection Therewith, Authorizing the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to Charge and Collect a Hospital Provider Fee, Specifying the Allowable Uses of the Fees, Requiring a Post-Enactment Review of the Implementation of this Act, and Making an Appropriation in Connection Therewith.

Summary: Allows hospitals to impose a fee on themselves. The revenue generated through the fee will draw down a federal match. The money will be used to increase provider reimbursement rates and to cover additional adult and children populations through CHP+ and Medicaid. There is also guaranteed 12-month eligibility for kids on Medicaid.

Date of Next Action: The bill was signed by the Governor on April 21, 2009.

Bill #: HB 09-1353

Sponsors: Representative Miklosi, Senators Foster and Newell

Title: Considering Legal Immigrants' Eligibility For Public Medical Benefits

Summary: Repeals the five-year waiting period for public medical benefits for pregnant women and children. The expansion of benefits is subject to sufficient funding and federal participation as well.

Date of Next Action: The bill passed out of the Health and Human Services Committee. It will be heard in House Appropriations on Tuesday.

Family Supports:

Bill #: HB 09-1057

Sponsors: Representative Andy Kerr, Senator Bacon

Title: Concerning Parental Involvement in Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade Education.

Summary: Creates a set of policies for employers of ten or more employees, to allow employees unpaid time off in order to participate in their child's school-related activities.

Parental involvement is one of many key components of improved academic performance.

Date of Next Action: April 16, the first Conference Committee agreed to adopt the bill, revised with amendments. Senate and House members granted permission to go beyond the scope of the differences between the two houses. The members of the Conference Committee are Representatives Kerr, Carroll and Waller and Senators Bacon, Groff and King.

Bill #: HB 09-1064

Sponsors: Representative Kefalas, Senator Sandoval

Title: Concerning Creating a Legislative Committee to Study Poverty Issues, and, in Connection, Therewith, Establish the Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force for the Purpose of Advancing Economic Opportunity While Reducing Child and Family Poverty.

Summary: Creates a legislative task force to study current policies and practices that promote economic opportunity and reduce poverty in order to develop a comprehensive plan to reduce the number of Colorado children and families living in poverty.

Supporting Info: 2008 KidsCount in Colorado!

[<http://www.coloradokids.org/includes/downloads/kidscount2008.pdf>]

Date of Next Action: April 23, passed on Third Reading in the Senate.

K-12 Education:

For a more frequent update on education happenings at the legislature and around the state, subscribe to the Capitol eNewsletter at [Education News Colorado](http://ednewscolorado.org/)

[<http://ednewscolorado.org/>].

Bill #: SB 09-163

Sponsors: Senators Hudak and King, Representatives Middleton and Massey

Title: Concerning the Education Accountability System.

Summary: Aligns the accountability system for Colorado's public education system and incorporates the new growth model data and other measures in the accountability reports.

Date of Next Action: April 16, passed on Third Reading in the Senate. Scheduled on Monday, April 27, for House Education Committee in room 112 at 1:30pm.

Bill #: SB 09-170

Sponsors: Senator Romer, Representative Miklosi

Title: Concerning Nondiscrimination in Determining the Amount Paid for Higher Education.

Summary: Allows undocumented students who have been in a Colorado high school for at least three years and graduated to be eligible for in-state tuition at institutions of higher education. The students must apply and be accepted on their own merits and must enroll within 12 months of high school graduation.

Date of Next Action: April 6, the bill failed in the Senate on Second Reading.

Bill #: SB 09-256

Sponsors: Senators Romer and Bacon, Representatives Pommer and Scanlan

Title: Concerning the Financing of Public Schools.

Summary: Makes the required increases to the student funding formula based on Amendment 23. Makes changes to the at-risk funding factor and charter school capitol construction. Additionally, it allows school districts more flexibility to leverage local funding, use their physical assets as reserves and eliminates some budgetary set asides.

Date of Next Action: On April 20, passed out of House Education amended to Appropriations. The bill was referred as amended from Appropriations to the House Committee of the Whole. Scheduled for Second Reading, Monday, April 27th.

Bill #: HB 09-1065

Sponsors: Representative Benefield, Senator Spence

Title: Concerning the Quality Teachers Commission, and, in Connection Therewith, Creating an Education Identifier Pilot Program.

Summary: Creates an educator identifier (teacher and principal ID) system that allows school districts to analyze the “teacher gap,” teacher quality and teacher effectiveness with the goal of using the data revealed to improve teaching and student learning.

Date of Next Action: April 15, Senate Education Committee passed the bill amended to the Appropriations Committee. The bill passed amended from Appropriations and will be heard by the Senate Committee of the Whole, date TBD.

Bill #: HB09-1243

Sponsors: Representatives Middleton and Massey, Senators Bacon and Spence

Title: Concerning Measures to Raise the Graduation Rate in Public High Schools in Colorado

Summary: Creates an office of drop out prevention to work with districts and schools to analyze policies and practices regarding students who are at-risk of dropping out and re-engaging students who have dropped out. The office will also be charged with helping districts create and implement plans to address the unique needs of their students.

Date of Next Action: April 16, the bill passed amended out of the Senate Education Committee. The Appropriations Committee passed the bill and it will now be heard by the Senate Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 28th.

Bill #: HB 09-1319

Sponsors: Representatives Merrifield and Massey, Senator Williams

Title: Concerning Concurrent Enrollment of Public High School Students in Courses Offered by Institutions of Higher Education.

Summary: Allows high schools to partner with institution of higher education so that qualified high school students can participate in college courses while still in high school. Creates an advisory board and outlines their responsibilities. Establishes processes and procedures related to the creation of the new program.

Date of Next Action: April 23, the bill passed amended out of Senate Education Committee to the Appropriations Committee where it will be heard on Tuesday, April 28th.

Fiscal Reform:

Bill #: SB 09-228

Sponsors: Senator Morse, Representatives Marostica and Court

Title: Concerning an Increase in the Flexibility of the General Assembly to Determine the Appropriate Use of State Revenues.

Summary: Eliminates the limit on the growth of total general fund appropriations (appropriations limit) known as Arveschoug-Bird or 6 percent spending limit. The measure does not increase the amount of revenue coming into the state budget. **A compromise has been reached between stakeholders and some of those previously opposed. This compromise has Governor Ritter's support and was necessary for the passage of the bill. And while there is likely to be some funding for transportation, capital construction and the state reserve, the most important part of the proposal, the removal of the Arveschoug-Bird appropriations limit moves forward.**

Date of Next Action: On April 23, passed out of Transportation and Energy amended. Passed out of House Appropriations on Friday and will be heard on Second Reading on Tuesday, April 28th.

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